

SPRING 2026

PRAYER ALERT

BEING A CATALYST

SHARPENING CURRICULUM

Supporting colleges in
PNG and the Pacific

DEVELOPING COURSES AND RESOURCES

Mission training for a
restricted access region

MOMENTUM-BUILDING

Mentoring local experts in
Francophone Africa



DANGER & DIGNITY

ANNUAL DINNER SERIES

30 OCTOBER - 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Church leaders in Lebanon and across the Arab world are ministering amid conflict, economic pressure, displacement and deep uncertainty. Training men and women for ministry in this context is not an abstract exercise; they must be prepared to shepherd churches, encourage the discouraged, bring dignity to the broken and bear witness to Christ in difficult and dangerous places.

Local Leaders International is delighted to present Wissam Nasrallah as the guest speaker for our 2026 Annual Dinner series. As President of Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), Wissam is at the forefront of training leaders for the church in this turbulent region.

Wissam is a collaborative and innovative leader, deeply devoted to God and dedicated to empowering the Church in the Middle East and North Africa. You will appreciate his analysis of the current situation in Lebanon and the surrounding region and be inspired by his stories of service and endurance from the staff and students at ABTS.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear from a key leader in theological education for the Arab world!



JOIN US FOR A DINNER NEAR YOU

CENTRAL COAST

Friday 30 October

SYDNEY

Saturday 31 October

MAITLAND

Tuesday 3 November

BRISBANE

Thursday 5 November

MELBOURNE

Saturday 7 November

ADELAIDE SUPPER

Tuesday 10 November

PERTH

Friday 13 November

See the enclosed invitation or our website for venue details, costs and how to register.



localleaders.org.au/get-involved/annualdinners

PLEASE PRAY

Almighty God, thank you that Wissam can visit Australia in October and November. Please encourage and guide him as he prepares to speak at the Annual Dinner Series. Ready the hearts and minds of Local Leaders' supporters to receive new insights about ministry training in the MENA region. Please help the Local Leaders team as they prepare for multiple events around the country. Amen.

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COVER

Local Leaders' Pedagogy Manager, Karen Roe, with staff members at Christian Leaders Training College (PNG) in 2025.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Better Governance Here and Abroad

BOARD GOVERNANCE CONTRIBUTION AROUND THE WORLD

Governance is a sophisticated area and not easily managed in our churches and organisations in Australia. The expertise and training needed for good governance is even harder to come by in our partner Bible colleges, where the Christian population is rarely involved in senior leadership for business and society.

From time to time, we have done strategic planning sessions with our partners which involves governance, academics, infrastructure, staffing etc. We also contribute as we negotiate around needs, with a range of other training and coaching.

Throughout next year we want to develop a model that coordinates our activities more. The aim is not to squeeze every involvement to be the same, but to expand the offerings in a coherent way. We want to embed this way of offering our help in the naturally occurring 'hub and affiliate' structure which we encounter in many parts of the world. This will allow us to work with five to fifteen collegial organisations at once and so multiply the impact of our contribution.

The goal will be to strengthen whole systems of leadership training for each country. That will enable them to raise up more leaders to meet the challenges of the church's mission and bring the goodness of Christ to more people.



Local Leaders' Chairman, David Brown, spending time listening to Pastor Mac (white shirt) and leaders from Hanoi Bible College in Vietnam (2025).

BOARD GOVERNANCE CONTRIBUTION IN AUSTRALIA

As an organisation, several years ago we voluntarily entered the accreditation processes of Christian Ministry Advancement (CMA). This organisation is part of a global group who help Christian organisations be resourced and accredited. Their Standards Council is headed by one of our Board members, Steve Kerr, so it was high on our radar soon after they started the concept of accreditation. It goes beyond the various Australian government accreditation systems that we are required to meet, insofar as it concerns not just good practice, but builds in the key elements of our faith and faithfulness to the Lord Jesus. It is a lot of work to do so, but we meet those standards and are a better organisation because of it.

One activity CMA has been doing for the past four years is to run a training program for potential board members. We were involved from the beginning and this year we've taken on our fourth Board Intern, **Lachlan Barraclough** (pictured right). Lachlan was in the NSW police force for a few years and now works for Baptist World Aid. He wanted to learn more about governance in Christian organisations, so he has been inducted as we would a regular board member and has attended his first Board meeting and Audit and Risk Committee. We see this training program as a contribution to the wider development of competence for Board governance in Australia.



Rev Dr Stuart Brooking
Executive Director

PLEASE PRAY

Lord God, we thank you for the opportunity Local Leaders has to assist Bible colleges in establishing sound governance. Please guide the process of developing a new model for training multiple colleges at once; may the program strengthen the whole system of leadership training for each country. We thank you for Lachlan Barraclough being inducted as this year's Local Leaders Board Intern. Please inspire him as he gains insights into the workings of boards and committees in the Australian charity context. Amen.

WE GIVE THANKS

"I will give thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you"

Psalm 35:18

The context of this burst of public thanks by David is extreme suffering because of those who publicly contended with and opposed him. Perhaps it was at the time of Saul's rage, prior to David becoming king.

Our context for giving thanks on this page (in the great assembly of supporters) is entirely different, but the principle is the same. We are thankful for his goodness to our organisation, and it is right to be declared in this public way.

LOCAL ONLINE: A GLOBAL STRATEGY (LOGS) - We are grateful for the data coming in now as we finish up LOGS after its designed five year period. We'll have a full report in a later edition of Prayer Alert, but we can already see the scope of how the strategy has changed the world of evangelical theological education. Hundreds of Bible colleges have an expanding capacity for online education, and many thousands of extra students can study God's word every year to equip them for ministry and mission.

GENEROSITY AFRICA - The quality of the initial investment in building resources and curricula have been demonstrated in the pilot study we ran last year in Kenya. While the training has been run in other countries, we now have funding to move to the next step of expanding this key teaching, of course with adaptation to each local context. We are about to start the next phase which will involve working with Bible college leaders and other ministry leaders to build new competence in dozens of Bible colleges across Africa. Every group trained will be equipped to train pastors in their country about the errors of the Prosperity Gospel and the freedom of God's generosity and our stewardship.

INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS - We are pleased to have begun a first cohort of mid-level faculty members to help them gain a PhD in a unique program. It will focus not just on high academic achievement but missional engagement and culture change for the whole system of 200 Bible colleges that we are working with. The initial funds are in place for training their supervisors better and strengthening this first cohort of what we hope will be the first of ten cohorts in the next decade.

In all this we give thanks.

We declare before you, our assembly, our thanks to you, but mostly for the work that the Lord is doing amongst our international partners.

We are conscious too that, although our context is not one of opposition, for many of our partners there is discrimination and even persecution. We notice a growing rise in nationalism and religious fundamentalism which impacts day to day life in many more countries than even five years ago. Our prayer is that even in those contexts they may give thanks - for the Lord is good.



One of the cohorts of Kenyan pastors who participated in the Generosity Africa pilot study. Here they are celebrating the completion of the Biblical Generosity and Stewardship training workshop at the International Leadership University in Nairobi, February 2026.

PLEASE PRAY

Faithful Lord, we praise you publicly for your goodness to Local Leaders International. We specifically praise you for the massive impact of LOGS and the resulting expansion of access to theological education. We thank you for the Generosity in Africa project and pray that the next phase of training will help even more pastors to turn from the errors of the Prosperity Gospel to the freedom of God's generosity. Thank you for the first cohort of PhD candidates in India, may they be strengthened by the program. And finally, we pray for Local Leaders' many partners who live in contexts where they experience discrimination and persecution. Please protect our brothers and sisters in those locations and encourage them as they continue to serve you. Amen.

CONSULTANT, COACH, CATALYST... BUT FIRST A FRIEND

Rev Dr Stuart Brooking, Executive Director, based in Australia

It is a complex thing to work across many cultures. Just this week I was coached by one of our friends, a senior leader in Tanzania, about how I should write a letter to another more senior leader. He knew instinctively the right way to bring about a good outcome. I did what he said.

We have ten staff who are part of our international team. Half are locals, but even they are working in multiple countries in their region. We are all crossing cultures.

Local Leaders supports our partner Bible colleges, and groups of Bible colleges, in many ways. We help poor students to get their education for ministry. We support about 60 faculty members to get higher degrees and be better equipped for their teaching. We support colleges with online education needs and campus infrastructure.

On top of these much-appreciated contributions, our international staff also provide themselves as change agents. They consult with leaders. They coach and train whole faculties and groups of faculties. They bring about major changes in systems through challenging the existing ways of operating and then coordinating our other resources to help. Ultimately, this catalytic work is what is needed for faster, bigger, better systems of Bible colleges which raise up faithful and competent leaders for the church and society.

I get constant feedback from college leaders, and leaders of systems of colleges, about the value Local Leaders brings through these staff

members. As a staff and board, we rejoice at the change that we can see from year to year in this ministry. But it all begins with something else – friendship.

Our starting point is to be friends with institution leaders and to have friendship between Local Leaders and the institutions. I don't mean that we're best friends with the hundreds of individuals that we work with, though some come to be in that category. (That's one of the joys of the work we do amongst such fine Christian leaders.) The basis of the friendship can be seen in what we're not doing. We do not come with a product we are 'selling' or 'giving away' that we think they should have. We do not come as saviours to rescue them from themselves. We do not come as the leaders. We do not think we can work with everyone, nor should we.

We come as learners. We ask questions. We trust that they know better than we do about their culture and mission needs.

From this posture grows mutual understanding and then often trust. We begin small and grow into friendship, and then into consulting and coaching and catalysing – but it begins with being friends.

In this Prayer Alert you'll get a flavour of the joy and impact that our international staff have experienced. May it help you praise our Lord.



Clockwise from top left:

1. Local Leaders staff David Turnbull, Stuart Brooking and Pauline Golder connecting with CITAF leaders from Francophone Africa at the ICETE conference in Albania, 2025.
2. Nancy Njagi and Karen Roe with faculty in Nigeria 2024.
3. Chairman, David Brown, building relationships with the leadership team at Colombo Theological Seminary in Sri Lanka, August 2026.

PLEASE PRAY

Sovereign God, thank you for the friendships that Local Leaders staff are privileged to have with institutional leaders around the world. Thank you for the reciprocity of these relationships and the learning that occurs for all parties within these partnerships. Lord, we pray that Local Leaders' international staff will continue to build healthy and dynamic relationships across cultures, and that by working together, theological education is enhanced and expanded throughout the Majority World. Amen.

SHARPENING BIBLE COLLEGES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE PACIFIC

Dr George Mombi, Pasifika Director, based in Papua New Guinea

Most of us will know this Proverb from chapter 27:17, *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”*. This is a fitting image of how Local Leaders International and Christian Leader’s Training College (CLTC) are helping to sharpen denominational Bible colleges and designated affiliate colleges in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

Over the years, many denominational colleges in the Pacific have lost their ability to properly equip men and women for Christian ministries. Their failing ability to train students to be contextually relevant is due to many factors, but one that stands out most (from my experience working with affiliate colleges) is curriculum design. Principals, academic deans and college staff have little to no knowledge of how to design a contextually relevant curriculum. They also have no experience in conducting curriculum reviews to ensure they have cutting edge, contextually effective programs.

Noting this limitation, many denominational leaders (along with the principals and deans of their Bible colleges) are turning to CLTC for help. Local Leaders’ strategic partnership with CLTC is paying dividends in this key area, advising denominational colleges on curriculum design and, subsequently, breathing new life into the affiliate colleges.

Many of the affiliate colleges are desiring to offer diploma training alongside their existing certificate programs (that they have run for a long time). These colleges are looking to CLTC for its advanced diploma program. It would be unhelpful for them to replicate CLTC’s curriculum in its entirety, because each denomination has their own ministry needs that they are training students for. Instead, I have encouraged them to plan their own curriculum with the freedom to incorporate some of CLTC’s courses.



George (second from left) with the leaders at Maria Molnar Training Centre during his visit in June 2026.

In June, I visited several new affiliate colleges, and the issue of curriculum was the main concern for the leadership teams. Meeting with the church leaders and staff of these colleges, I heard their desire to review the curriculum to make it biblically sound, relevant, inclusive and, at the same time, meet the required standards of colleges like CLTC. I will continue these discussions and provide assistance where needed. Additionally, a plan is in place to conduct pedagogy training next year for these colleges.

The journey was the same for the first lot of affiliate colleges that I worked with, and they have taken great strides to improve their programs over the last few years. I’m

very pleased to say that they are now able to offer a two-year diploma of ministry and an advanced diploma of ministry (three years).

Although I have not had specialist training in curriculum design, I am thankful to God for the hands-on experience I’ve gained. In 2006, I was involved in changing the curriculum of my denominational Bible college. Then in 2013, along with another faculty member at CLTC, I co-wrote the course notes on curriculum design. Teaching at CLTC, participating in many curriculum design meetings, and the overall general training context of the college has made me grow in my knowledge. I love helping the affiliate colleges in PNG and the Pacific to think about this important area of growth.



George with the team at Lighthouse Bible College during his June visit.

PLEASE PRAY

Creator of Heaven and Earth, thank you for George’s work encouraging and supporting Bible colleges throughout the Pacific region. Thank you for the advancements that many of CLTC’s affiliate colleges have made to train students at a higher level. Please guide the new cohort of affiliate colleges as they review their curriculum and plan improvements for the future. Bless George as he works as a catalyst with the Bible schools, lifting the level of theological education throughout the region. Amen.

ACTING AS CATALYSTS FOR MULTIPLICATION

Dr Richard and Dr Caroline Seed, Theological Education Consultants, based in South Africa

We are passionate about coaching lecturers in theology to move from passive teaching methods to more interactive, participative techniques.

Our work with Local Leaders involves three pillars:

1. Pedagogy training: This is our primary focus. Our role is to facilitate courses in pedagogy (how teachers teach) as part of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy. Based at George Whitefield College (GWC) in South Africa, we work with Local Leaders hub and affiliate partner colleges across the continent using our three-phase training program called TALHITE (Teaching and Learning in Higher Theological Education).

2. Helping Christian universities stay Christian: We coach institutions in curriculum development, so faith remains integrated across all disciplines. Uganda Christian University (UCU) is a great example. What began as TALHITE training has grown into a university-wide initiative. Faculties such as medicine, law and business are asking how students can develop their faith alongside their professional training.

3. Supporting theological research in Indonesia: We have run multiple workshops with PASTI, a consortium of 45 Evangelical Bible colleges in Indonesia. Faculty members have very little experience with theological research methods, but are now required by the government to publish internationally to receive accreditation. We have been training them to upskill in this area.



Richard working with a wonderful interpreter to lead a training session on integrated theological research in September 2025. The workshop was for senior faculty and institutional leaders who are part of the PASTI consortium in Indonesia.

Our Favourite Things

What we love about our work is seeing leaders' perspectives transformed. For instance, as faculty members engage with the pedagogy training, they quickly see the possibilities. Suddenly, they have the tools to do what they've been itching to do with their students. And they run with it.

Reading the portfolios of the lecturers and tracking their growth is joyous! It's also extremely humbling, because you realise that all you're doing is acting as a catalyst for the Holy Spirit. Their growth as educators goes far beyond the input. And this, of course, impacts their students. The teaching techniques they take into the classroom are not just humanist, nice things to do, they help students actively participate in their own spiritual understanding within the body of Christ.

The leadership development aspect is also significant. Although the course focuses on pedagogy, participants often discover their calling as leaders. The majority have never received formal leadership training. The course helps them realise that they are leaders and, as their confidence grows, they naturally start considering how they can help their institutions. Many begin sharing their learning with colleagues, and some are becoming regional theological leaders.

A Significant Highlight

This year, we were delighted that Local Leaders welcomed two new hub colleges to the Africa Mile Deep Strategy: The Episcopal University in South Sudan and Lake Malawi Anglican University in Malawi. We have begun pedagogy training with both institutions and are excited by the growing opportunities for shared learning and collaboration across the nine diverse colleges that now make up the Africa Mile Deep network.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord, be with Richard and Caroline as they help to upskill faculty members in Africa, and Indonesia. Please help them with the preparation of courses and the accompanying administration, which is significant. We join them in praying for the current Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. May the crisis ease, allowing Dick and Caroline to return to East Africa Christian College (in the neighbouring country of Rwanda) to complete phase three of their TALHITE training. Amen.



Caroline leading a TALHITE workshop.

FOSTERING RICHER TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Karen Roe, Pedagogy Manager, based in Australia

One of the greatest privileges in my role with Local Leaders, is seeing how effective pedagogy training can facilitate positive changes in theological education. Across the Majority World, dedicated theological educators are shaping future pastors and ministry leaders, often with little formal preparation in teaching and learning. Through the TALHITE program (Teaching and Learning in Higher Theological Education), Local Leaders International equips educators with practical, research-informed approaches that strengthen both teaching and student learning. The impact extends far beyond individual participants. I asked some South Sudanese lecturers to share their impressions of the training impact after our most recent online course.

Rev Dr. Abraham Kou, dean at Bishop Gwynne School of Theology, in South Sudan, shared that TALHITE *“fostered my active and critical thinking”* and enhanced his teaching skills, making his classes more interactive and engaging. He also observed that colleagues at his theological school have begun reflecting more intentionally on their own teaching practices.

From the Episcopal University in South Sudan, Philip Lomoro (GWC graduate) described the training as *“an eye-opening”* experience. He explained that formative assessment is often overlooked in his context, with most emphasis placed on exams as the final product. Through TALHITE, he and his colleagues gained a deeper understanding of intended learning outcomes, learning objectives, and effective assessment practices, enabling them to design courses more professionally and intentionally.

Rev. Alex Frazer, Chaplain and Dean of student affairs at The Episcopal University, reflected that TALHITE has *“positively transformed my approach to teaching.”* He shared that the training increased his confidence and helped him plan more intentional, student-centred lessons where learning outcomes, activities, and assessments are carefully aligned. Rev. Alex believes the training is strengthening both academic and ministry contexts in South Sudan by promoting critical thinking, active participation, and continuous growth.

These testimonies remind us that when one educator grows, the impact rarely stops there. Students benefit from richer learning experiences. Colleagues are encouraged to improve their practice. Institutions become stronger. Churches and communities are served by better-equipped leaders.



Karen is working with multiple colleges around the world to upskill faculty with pedagogy training.

Above: Karen Roe and George Mombi ran TALHITE training with the team at Union Bible Theological College in Mongolia in February 2026.

Below: Karen with faculty members at Christian Leaders training College in PNG during a TALHITE training visit in September 2025.

PLEASE PRAY

God Almighty, we pray that TALHITE graduates will continue to grow in their capacities as effective learning managers, who positively impact their institutions, inspire their colleagues, and equip future Christian leaders to serve God's Kingdom with wisdom, skill, and faithfulness. Thank you for Karen and the training workshops she runs. Please continue to help her in the planning and delivery of these transformative clinics. Amen.

COURSES AND RESOURCES FOR A RESTRICTED ACCESS REGION

Director for Restricted Access Theological Education, Local Leaders International

Christian leaders in restricted access areas can be easily forgotten. We hear about them less as they are not in our organisation's usual social media posts and newsletters. But, like the unnamed men of Cyprus and Cyrene, scattered by persecution and yet instrumental in the spread of the gospel at Antioch (Acts 11:19-30), God is at work in remarkable ways. Local Leaders International has been developing relationships and partnering with Christian leaders in a particular region over the past four years or so, focusing on supporting and resourcing them as they serve in local and global missions.

It's a privilege to work alongside these brothers and sisters. One area that I'm thankful for is the opportunity to bring these leaders together and encourage them to write their own mission resources. As valuable as Western translations are, encouraging local experts to write their own mission resources is not only important for their development but also provides the church with contextualised resources. It is a joy and encouragement to serve together in this way. We are grateful that two books will be published this year and that these books can be used to teach mission courses in Bible colleges.

Another exciting development has come through connecting a missions training network from this region with a theological college. It has been wonderful to see this partnership develop, each contributing in different ways to serve a common goal. They are aiming to develop a contextualised missions training pathway for mission workers serving at the grassroots and for those who will eventually pursue doctoral studies. This is a significant development that we trust will train mission workers at all levels and for the next generation.

Much more could be said but I hope these two major areas of our current work give you a glimpse into the strategic activities we're coordinating for this restricted access region. Much gospel work in history and in Scripture is not always done by those in the spotlight, just like those in Acts 11. Believers often face challenging circumstances as they live out their faith. So, thank you for continuing to pray and support the work of Local Leaders International in this undisclosed region. I'm grateful to serve as a catalyst and I consider it a humbling privilege to be involved in a small way in this work.

PLEASE PRAY

Heavenly Father, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are serving in this undisclosed restricted access region. Thank you for their passion for local and global mission and the way they are developing training courses and resources for such a time as this. Please give them courage, discernment and peace as they do your will. Thank you for the key relationships that Local Leaders has developed in this region, may the projects continue to serve those on the ground with sensitivity and wisdom. Amen.



MOMENTUM-BUILDING IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

Dr Pauline Golder, Francophone Africa Director, based in Australia

I work with French-speaking theological educators in 16 different African countries through connections fostered by the local accrediting agency CITAF (Conseil des Institutions Théologiques d'Afrique Francophone). Many have immense challenges in training local Christians to serve God in very difficult circumstances. A lot of my work is from home, with the internet providing 24-hour contact or online classrooms, when necessary, to fit in with their different time zones. Additionally, I travel for several intensive weeks at a time visiting and teaching in multiple countries in Africa at a time.

The best thing about my work is the time spent with local theological educators, many of whom have been good friends since I lived in Africa or started teaching for Local Online: A Global Strategy (LOGS).

When I conducted initial research in 2022, I discovered that the greatest demand was for training in teaching (pedagogy), particularly among the many 'ordinary'

theological institutions that had previously missed such opportunities. At the same time, many institutions revealed that, having been pushed online by COVID, they now had potential students requesting flexible online learning options so they could continue to minister and work where they were. These colleges wanted to know how to teach better online.

To meet the scope of these needs, one person isn't enough, so I've been training (and now work in partnership with) a local team from five West African countries. They all have fulltime roles as academic deans and principals, but have added long hours learning and then teaching others. Our training sessions provide a chance for these leaders from distant countries to catch up and enjoy old jokes.

Another joy is to see their personal and professional growth. They have become extremely useful both nationally and internationally, and are becoming the region's local 'experts' in online education.

PLEASE PRAY

Everlasting Father, it's a joy to hear about Bible colleges being supported in Francophone Africa. Thank you for Pauline's work building relationships and nurturing the next generation of theological educators across the region. Thank you for the many training sessions she has conducted in pedagogy and online education, advancing the skills of numerous faculty members. Thanks also for the personal and professional growth of the key leaders from West Africa who Pauline has been mentoring. May they have great impact as they now train others. Amen.

CITAF's leaders call them "LOGS' legacy". Two have now joined CITAF's international leadership, and two have contributed chapters in the upcoming book about sustainable digitally enhanced theological education to be published by Langham.

I asked these trainers how they felt LOGS had acted as a catalyst in the region.

I'm very encouraged by their answers, one of which was:

"Thanks to the tools, methods, and insights provided [by LOGS training], we were able to strengthen our online training program and make it more structured, relevant, and effective. We were also able to reach a larger number of God's servants, which had been a real challenge for us because their schedules differed from standard working hours and some of them are quite geographically isolated.

Beyond the knowledge we gained, LOGS helped us move more quickly from idea to action. Its influence continues to be felt through the leaders we are training today. We were thus able to develop a training program, using the tools LOGS made available to us, for the other CITAF directors of schools. Today, several schools have been able to launch their own online programs."



Pauline working with faculty from several colleges in Cameroon during a training session in Limbe, April 2026.

SPARKING CONVERSATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Dr David Turnbull, Director Local Online: A Global Strategy, based in Australia

There have been so many rewarding opportunities within Local Leaders International to walk alongside and support faculty and leaders of theological institutions as they navigate the ever-changing educational environment, especially regarding the effects of technology and artificial intelligence.

As Director of the Local Online: A Global Strategy (LOGS) project for the past five years, I've connected with over two hundred theological education institutions through video conferencing, emails, WhatsApp and in-person meetings. This engagement, grounded in a cultural intelligence framework, explored each college's plans to further develop online education, often from scratch, and to ensure its effective implementation. There are so many positive stories to tell, especially from the last twelve months, where the catalytic conversations resulted in change and strong networks.

12-Month Highlights

The first highlight was offering in-person and remote training programs in regions like Southeast Asia (October 2025) and the Caribbean and Brazil (March 2026), where the desire to actively engage in online education was gaining momentum. The two trips resulted from invitations from regional organisations keen to take advantage of new technological opportunities and deepen their understanding. The training focused on building faculty competence with online education. Through these gatherings,

relationships formed which continued after the 'competence' events.

The Brazilian context saw leaders from 13 Bible colleges participate in two-day 'Train the Trainer' workshops to prepare them to embrace online education and map out their transition plans for the next twelve months. Since March, I have met with the leaders online to confirm their plans and budgets. They are receiving appropriate technological capacity equipment, such as video recording gear. Additionally, faculty members will receive 15 to 20 hours of workshops that address knowledge gaps and areas of concern, while senior leaders receive coaching.

The second highlight for me over the past year has been leading the 'Technology and Innovation in Learning Impact Team' within the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE). The team was birthed at ICETE's C-25 Consultation in Albania in March 2025. This global community of practice brings together more than 100 members. Together, we advance online theological education through advocacy, education, networking, and resource promotion in the fields of technology, learning, and artificial intelligence. The key activities include hosting quarterly webinars, running regular 'Meet Ups', and developing a Raindrop website offering a selection of tools and resources for digitally-enhanced theological education (<https://til-impact-team.raindrop.page/tools-and-resources-57737518>).

The LOGS project's legacy and impact will continue to emerge, having concluded on 30th June 2026. No doubt, there will be more catalytic narrative to tell. Please pray for the future and ways to build on the momentum.



David training the trainers in Brazil, March 2026.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for the impact of the LOGS project and the way it has opened up endless possibilities for theological education providers around the world. Thank you for David's passion to see institutions equipped, well trained and flourishing in online education. We praise you for the opportunities he's had to invest in relationships with colleges in Southeast Asia and Brazil, building on the existing momentum for change and growth. Please encourage the Impact Team that David is leading within ICETE as they continue to advance online theological education. Amen.

THE BEAUTIFUL STORY GOD IS WRITING IN AFRICA

Dr Nancy Wanjiku Njagi, Africa Director, based in Kenya

As Africa becomes an increasingly populous and youthful continent, it will continue to face crises like urban poverty and prosperity-focused false teaching. The need for well-trained local Christian leaders has never been clearer.

To friends of Local Leaders International, I am probably a familiar face. I am Nancy Wanjiku Njagi, the Africa Director of Local Leaders International. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, I serve as a catalyst between the partner theological institutions of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy (AMDS) and the staff and supporters of Local Leaders.

I like to replace the word *catalyst* with *friend*, for I see my role as being a relationship builder with the leaders in my region. This is one of my favourite aspects of my work, journeying with leaders as we plan, implement and reflect on projects that enhance the quality of theological education in Africa.

Local Leaders partners with colleges to provide training and scholarships to faculty, students and church leaders. The beauty of these projects is that leaders study within their own context. It means their training is highly relevant and they have a responsibility to apply what they learn immediately in their churches and communities.

I love it when institutional leaders realise the glaring call to action and start advocating for change within government and church education systems. Let me share a few recent highlights.

Alexandria School of Theology in Egypt recorded lectures that were sent to affiliate colleges in North Africa. While this sounds minor, it was instrumental in reducing the cost and time of travel within a volatile region. Significantly, the college has also started the first online Master of Theology in Arabic. These developments were made possible through Local Leaders' support for the purchase and installation of recording equipment and a smart classroom.

Eight theological institutions of the **Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)** agreed to advocate through the Bishop Theologian's office¹. The advocacy sought to update programs offered at these institutions, initiate curriculum review to include urban mission, introduce online teaching and learning, strengthen student recruitment and improve funding strategies. Training programs facilitated in partnership with Local Leaders fuelled this advocacy initiative.

Several colleges have taken strides to **train leaders for urban mission**. The Bishop Tucker School of Theology at Uganda Christian University decided to review their curriculum to include a course in urban mission. St John's University, Tanzania, approached the Ministry of Education for approval of a bachelor's degree in urban mission—a rigorous process that was approved this year. George Whitefield College (South Africa) is in the process of re-thinking its training for church leaders to include ministry in the townships. All these advancements were initiated through training sessions in partnership with Local Leaders International.

I could tell you many more stories but let me close by saying how much I enjoy being part of the beautiful story that God is writing in Africa through theological institutions and the service of well-trained church leaders.

To God be the glory!

Nancy works closely with the nine hub institutions that make up the Africa Mile Deep Strategy. Each of the hubs supports a network of smaller affiliate colleges, helping to lift the level of theological education across the continent. The nine hub colleges are: Alexandria School of Theology (Egypt), East Africa Christian College (Rwanda), George Whitefield College (South Africa), Lake Malawi Anglican University (Malawi), St John's University (Tanzania), St Paul's University (Kenya), The Episcopal University (South Sudan), Theological Institutions of the Anglican Communion (Nigeria) and Uganda Christian University (Uganda).



Nancy conducted urban mission training with 49 church leaders in Lagos, Nigeria (July 2026). Visiting the Makoko slum deeply impacted all participants.

PLEASE PRAY

Gracious God, thank you for Nancy and the college leaders who are part of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy. Please continue to fuel their passion for Christian leadership development across the continent and inspire them as they innovate in this space. We pray for every college leadership team, faculty member and student who is being impacted by Local Leaders' support. Encourage them as they study, teach and lead in their communities. Bless Nancy as she continues to build strong relationships with colleges across Africa. Amen.

¹The church leadership structure in charge of theological education within the Anglican Communion institutions in Nigeria.

SPONSORED STUDENT STORY

Lesley Mpho Makubetsa

Studying: The 1 Year Ministry Training Course
(Occupational Certificate)

College: Johannesburg Bible College in South Africa

Graduating: December 2026



I love how our lecturers teach us about God's Word. They pray before they teach. They have so much wisdom about the Word of God. They are willing to go the extra mile just to make sure we understand. I love their dedication; discipline and the love for God. As a result, I am inspired by how they teach and serve us.

My favourite module is Christian Ministry and Leadership because, as a leader in my local church, I should become a servant leader and not a lord over the people of God. So, this module gives me courage and the understanding to be a leader that reads God's Word and studies; and relies on the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray that I may become a leader that is committed in serving; and a leader that fears God and brings honour to the name of Jesus Christ.

My core beliefs have been strengthened and challenged more. Now I value the grace of God more than before. The Word of God is supreme more than my feelings and experience. Jesus comes first in my life. The Bible is about God and his plan for humanity. God hates sin and he will punish sin. God is in charge over my life. Jesus's life, death and resurrection is enough for my salvation. Now I can be thankful and be grateful in any and every situation believing that Jesus has power and authority in every situation. Jesus is faithful to His Word.

Going forward this year, I am excited about:

- deepening my understanding of the Book of Romans
- learning about the doctrine of the knowledge of God: God revealing himself in creation, and
- learning how to conduct a Bible study and to fellowship with other believers.

JBC is an innovative interdenominational college and is designed to cater to both mature participants and those seeking introductory ministry preparation. The available offerings emphasise practical theology, biblical literacy, and engagement with contemporary culture, all within a framework that supports local church participation and service.



Students at Johannesburg Bible College.

PLEASE PRAY

Loving Father, thank you for Lesley and everything that he is learning as he studies your word at JBC. Bless him as he is equipped to be a servant leader, relying on your power and grace. Thank you that you are shaping him to impact his community with the gospel. Please continue to deepen his faith as he continues his studies this year. Thank you for JBC and bless the staff, faculty and students as they serve the church in South Africa. Amen.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WORK OF LOCAL LEADERS

Some practical options for you to consider

SPONSOR A STUDENT

We are passionate about equipping and teaching individuals who will emerge as resourceful, indigenous Christian leaders in their context. Local Leaders supports men and women who preach and teach the redeeming love of Jesus. You can commit to finance a student's study needs yourself, or find a few friends who will join with you to fund the scholarship. The cost is \$2,600 per year. Sponsorship funds can be paid monthly, quarterly, six monthly or yearly.

For more information, email sponsorships@localleaders.org.au

SPONSOR A FACULTY MEMBER

Local Leaders has identified that a key way to lift the learning experience of students is to lift the competence of the faculty. We support faculty members doing masters and doctoral studies in their region or by distance education, so they can stay at their college. This greatly reduces the cost compared to training in the West. Furthermore, their studies are more relevant and suitable for the context of ministry in the Majority World. **For more information, email office@localleaders.org.au**

SUPPORT A PROJECT

Our partner colleges are constantly evaluating what resources are needed to make their institutions run at optimum efficiency. Sometimes a college will need funding to develop an outreach strategy, or to provide IT infrastructure to their campuses. Sometimes they simply need to purchase new, good quality library books. You can donate towards a project that will make a significant difference to our partner colleges. Latest projects are listed on our website: **localleaders.org.au/programs/latest-projects**

SUPPORT A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE BUILDING PROJECT

Our College Building Fund provides another option for our supporters to receive tax deductions when they strategically invest in Bible colleges in the Majority World. We tend to have just one or two projects running at any time for this fund. Currently we are keen to assist with building the first floor of the offices for Asia Theological Association in India. **For more information, email office@localleaders.org.au**

CONSIDER A BEQUEST

We are thankful that in past years numerous people have included Local Leaders International in their will. The Board of Local Leaders invites you to join in this program. It is as simple as adding a small phrase to your will. See our website for an example: **<https://localleaders.org.au/get-involved/bequest/>**

It helps to have a lawyer involved and to explain your intentions to your family. If you wish to make known your intentions to include Local Leaders in your will, please advise our Executive Director, Stuart Brooking. You can also let us know how you'd like your gift distributed. **For more information, email office@localleaders.org.au**

DIRECT DEBIT

OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF GIVING

Although you can donate via credit card on our website, card charges can consume up to 3% of the donation. **So, for every \$100 donated we could be giving an extra \$3 to our beneficiaries rather than to the bank.**

Our preferred donation method is direct deposit. This ensures zero transaction fees. It means more of your donation goes where it's needed most.

See the DONATE page on our website for bank account details: **<https://localleaders.org.au/donate/>**

PLEASE PRAY

Gracious God, we pray that the areas of support listed above would make a tangible difference to each Bible college. Amen.





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ANNUAL DINNERS